

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 SEC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8753

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 4614

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CS

SUBJECT: SENATOR JACKSON'S LETTER TO DEPUTY  
ECHEVERRIA AND CIA ALLEGATIONS

1. LA HORA FOR DECEMBER 5 CARRIES A REPORT THAT  
SEVERAL UNIDENTIFIED ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES ARE CONTEMPLATING  
CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED TIES BETWEEN  
SENATOR JACKSON AND THE CIA. THIS IS REPORTEDLY  
PROMPTED BY THE SENATOR'S RECENT LETTER TO DEPUTY  
JUAN JOSE ECHEVERRIA (PRD) "WHICH HAS SERVED AS A  
BASIS FOR REQUESTING THE ASSEMBLY TO EXPEL" ROBERT  
VESCO FROM COSTA RICA.

2. THE PRESS REPORT FAILS TO NOTE THAT THE SENATOR  
WAS REPLYING TO A SPECIFIC REQUEST FROM ECHEVERRIA.  
IN FACT, IT GOES ON TO SAY THAT IT IS OF CONCERN  
IN THE ASSEMBLY THAT THE U.S. SENATOR SHOWS SUCH  
INTEREST IN VESCO THAT HE HAS "PUT HIMSELF IN  
CONTACT WITH COSTA RICAN DEPUTIES TO SEEK SOME ARRANGEMENT  
WHICH PERMITS HIS (VESCO'S) EXPULSION FROM THE  
COUNTRY." NOTHING THAT THE SENATOR WAS CHARGED BY THE  
SENATE WITH AN INVESTIGATION OF VESCO, THE UNNAMED  
DEPUTIES REPORTEDLY BELIEVE THAT JACKSON HAS GONE BEYOND  
THE NORAML REQUIREMENT "AS IF HIS LIFE DEPENDED ON  
ACHIEVING THE EXTRADITION" OF VESCO.

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3. THE SAME LA HORA PIECE QUOTES PASO COMMUNIST DEPUTY ARNOLDO FERRETO SEQURA AS SUPPORTING ASSEMBLY INVESTIGATION OF VESCO, THE CIA AND OTHER EVILS ALL IN ONE PACKAGE. FERRETO REPORTEDLY BLAMED THE GOCR FOR FAILURES TO CRACK DOWN ON THE CIA. IT IS A MATTER OF PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE," HE SAID, "THAT PETER JOHNSON, A SENIOR OFFICER OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, IS THE CHIEF OF THE GROUP OF CIA AGENTS WHICH OPERATES IN THIS COUNTRY."

4. IN A SEPARATE SHORT LA HORA ARTICLE MINISTER OF PUBLIC SECURITY MARIO CHARPENTIER WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE WOULD "ORDER AN INVESTIGATION, WITH GREAT PLEASURE, OF THE 75 CIA AGENTS IN THE COUNTRY. I ONLY HOPE THAT THE HONORABLE DEPUTIES CAN PROVIDE MORE DETAILS IN ORDER THAT THE MINISTRY CAN ORDER IT. I BELIEVE THAT THE MOMENT IS PREMATURE TO REFER TO AN UNSUBSTANTIATED ACCUSATION.

5. COMMENT: AT THIS STAGE, THE INSINUATIONS ABOUT SENATOR JACKSON DO NOT IN THE EMBASSY'S JUDGMENT WARRANT A PUBLIC STATEMENT AS THEY ARE LIKELY TO APPEAR ONLY IN THE LOW CIRCULATION AND WIDELY DIS-CREDITED LA HORA. IN ANY CASE, IT IS LIKELY THAT IF STORY GAINS CURRENCY ECHEVERRIA HIMSELF WILL SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON WHO INITIATED THE CORRESPONDENCE. LA HORA, HOWEVER, MAY BE COUNTED ON TO TRY TO KEEP THE POT BOILING FOR VESCO AND TO EMBROIL THE USG AND SPECIFICALLY THE EMBASSY IN ANY WAY IT CAN. IN THE MEANTIME, WE KNOW LA NACION HAS A COPY OF THE JACKSON LETTER TO ECHEVERRIA AND IS PREPARING IT FOR PUBLICATION.

LANE

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